

ABSTRACT

A graft connector comprises a sleeve (10) and a collar (11). The sleeve (10) has an opening (12) in its circumferential surface and comprises a memory material. The collar (11) consists of a fluid-tight material and is fixed to the sleeve (10) before use of the graft connector. The collar has a shoulder portion (13) extending at least around the opening (12) and a neck portion (14) integral with the shoulder portion (13) and projecting radially from the opening (12). An introducer for the graft connector comprises two L-shaped elements (18, 19), and first releasable means (20, 21, 28-30) for locking the two L-shaped elements (18, 19) together so as to form a T-shaped element (26) having a stem (27) and two oppositely directed arms (24, 25). Removable means (31; 42; 46) are provided for temporarily reducing the diameter of the sleeve (10) during insertion into a blood vessel (2) and also for connecting the arms (24, 25) of the T-shaped element (26) along the sleeve (10) of the graft connector. The sleeve (10) is introduced into the blood vessel (2) through the longitudinal incision made therein by manipulation of the stem (27) of the T-shaped element (26). Then the two L-shaped elements (18, 19) are released from each other and from the sleeve (10) and finally they are retracted from the blood vessel (2).